

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05369 020633 Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 OMB-01 EUR-25 IO-12 DPW-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /140 W

----- 080708

R 020425 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9468

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5369

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SITREP, 26 MARCH- APRIL 1, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM CAN THO APR 1
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE CAN THO 0112

1. SUMMARY: THE BATTLE FOR THE HONG NGU ENTRY POINT ONCE AGAIN DOMINATED THE WEEK' S EVENTS IN THE DELTA. THE FIGHTING IS FAR FROM OVER AND FURTHER ENGAGEMENTS ARE EXPECTED IN THE COMING WEEK. THE JMC ENDED ITS BRIEF AND UNPRODUCTIVE PEACEKEEPING ROLE AND WITH ITS DEPARTURE THE AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN MR IV CAME TO AN END. VC/ NVA PROPAGANDA AND TERRORISM INCREASED. EXCEPT FOR A FLAMBOYANT DEMONSTRATION ON MARCH 26 FARMERS' DAY, THE GVN WENT ABOUT ITS BUSINESS AS USUAL.

2. SECURITY SITUATION:

A. MILITARY ACTIVITY MEASURED BY THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS INCREASED SLIGHTLY DURING THE WEEK FROM 40 TO OVER 50 DAILY. MOST INCIDENTS WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE RESULTING IN RVNAF CASUALTIES OF BETTER THAN 15 KIA AND ALMOST 100 WIA A DAY-- ABOUT THE POST- CEASEFIRE AVERAGE. VC/ NVA CASUALTIES WERE LOWER THAN USUAL. DURING TWO DAYS THIS WEEK HOWEVER RVNAF CASUALTIES EXCEEDED THOSE OF THE VC/ VNA. MOST CASUALTIES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 05369 020633 Z

RESULTED FROM LOCAL GUERRILLA OPERATIONS AND LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SOME RF AND PF UNITS IN THE DELTA ARE UNDULY RELAXED AND LETTING THEIR HOPES FOR A CEASEFIRE EXCEED THE REALITIES OF THE PRESENT SITUATION.

B. WITH THE BATTLE FOR AN ENTRY POINT UNDERWAY IN NORTHERN KIEN PHONG, THE MAJORITY OF THE FIGHTING TOOK PLACE THERE. ELSEWHERE IN MR IV, VC/ NVA UNITS WERE COMMITTED TO CLEARING SUPPLY ROUTES AND UNDERTOOK SMALLER ENGAGEMENTS IN KIEN GIANG AND BAC LIEU. NORMALLY CONTESTED CHUONG THIEN AND DINH TUONG WERE QUIET. CIVILIAN CASUALTIES INCREASED WITH A RISE IN VC TERRORISM, ROAD AND WATERWAY MININGS. A TRAGIC ANNEX TO THE HONG NGU BATTLE, VC/ NVA SHELLING OF TAN CHAU IN NORTHERN CHAU DOC PROVINCE CONTINUED DESPITE ICCS INVESTIGATIONS.

3. ICCS/ JMC: WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE US, DRV, AND PRG DELEGATIONS ON MARCH 31, THE FPJMC WOUND UP ITS BRIEF AND UNPRODUCTIVE CAREER. RANKING ARVN OFFICERS IN MR IV ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE TPJMC WILL SHORTLY BE ORGANIZED. SEVERAL PRG OFFICERS REMARKED THEY WILL RETURN TO SERVE ON THE NEW COMMISSION. MEANWHILE DURING THE WEEK, LONG DORMANT ICCS REGION VI MANAGED TO CONDUCT ITS FORIS INVESTIGATION SINCE ITS ARRIVAL. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF BOTH REGIONS WILL BE HURT BY THE DEPARTURE OF THE AMERICAN JMC. ICCS TEAMS RELIED HEAVILY ON THEIR AMERICAN COLLEAGUES FOR SUPPORT AND INFORMATION. DISPITE THE US DEPARTURE, CHANCES OF ICCS REGION VII CONTINUING ITS NUMEROUS, THOUGH GENERALLY INCONCLUSIVE, INVESTIGATIONS ARE BETTER THAN THOSE OF REGION VI. AS OF MARCH 28 REGION VII HAD CONSIDERED 60 GVN PROTESTS AND LAUNCHED 30 INVESTIGATIONS. REGION VII'S INVESTIGATIONS WERE HAMPERED BY SHODDY GVN DOCUMENTATION AND OCCASIONALLY DOCTORED EVIDENCE .

4. COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES: VC POLITICAL ACTIVITY DURING THE WEEK CONSISTED PRINCIPALLY OF PROPAGANDA AND TERRORISM. IMPORTANT PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS, STRENGTHENED OCCASIONALLY WITH TEMPORARY ABDUCTIONS, WERE CONDUCTED IN INSECURE AREAS OF VINH BINH AND CHAU DOC PROVINCES. REPORTEDLY THE VC USED THESE SESSIONS TO EXPLAIN THEIR POST- CEASEFIRE SITUATION. TERRORISM ALSO ROSE SUBSTANTIALY IN THE DELTA, WITH PSDF AND LOCAL OFFICIALS BEARING THE BRUNT OF VIET CONG ATTENTION.

5. GVN ACTIVITIES:

A. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITS FARMERS' DAY EXTRAVAGANZA, THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 05369 020633 Z

GVN CONDUCTED ITS BUSINESS AT A NORMAL PACE DURING THE WEEK.

PRESIDENT THIEU, GVN DIGINATARIES, AND 60,000 VISITORS, CAME TO CAN THO MARCH 26 TO CELEBRATE THE END OF THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL LAND REFORM PROGRAM. THIEU USED THE OCCASION TO SPELL OUT HIS FIVE YEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

B. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION: ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDER OF THE 7 TH DIVISION AND THE AN XUYEN PROVINCE CHIEF, THE MR IV COMMANDER HAS AUTHORIZED, UNDER TERMS OF ARTICLE IV OF THE JMC COVENTION, CONTROLLED TALKS AT CORPS AND SUBORDINATE COMMAND LEVELS WITH VC/ NVA COMMANDERS. OTHERWISE, ONLY THE LOWEST AND LEAST SIGNIFICANT FORMS OF ACTION APPEAR TO BE TAKING PLACE. IN AN XUYEN AND OTHER HIGHLY INSECURE AREAS OF THE DELTA, RF AND PF UNITS HAVE BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITHE THE VIET CONG SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. SIGNED BARNES UNQUOTE

BENNETT

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON05369
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730430/aaaahiw1.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <24-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971114
Subject: WEEKLY SITREP, 26 MARCH- APRIL 1, 1973 FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM CAN THO APR 1 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO QUOTE CAN THO 0112
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, VS, MILI, PINT
To: EA
JEC PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005